

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, WILL BE HELD IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM AT THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007

Present: Anthony B Toran, Chuck Simons, Matt Denison, Mickey Thompson, David Hickey

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Toran called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Toran stated we are here to meet about the AFSCME grievance that was filed.

Mr. Thompson stated that their contract state that any open position must be filled within 30 days and this particular position went past that deadline. After the thirty days were up the street department received a letter from city stating that there weren't funds to fill this position and the problem that have with that is the fact that this position has been around for approximately thirty years and they had the funds for it all that time. He explained that the contract says you shall replace vacated positions within 30 calendar days and he stated that he spoke with police Chief Harl and they have hired 2 employees in anticipation of retirement and they aren't required to do this. He stated that they are short of people and Mr. Simons can attest to this and they need these people to be hired immediately.

Mr. Denison asked what a full staff at the Street Department is.

Mr. Thompson said there isn't a certain number of employees but there are bids on jobs and Clyde's job was bided out but now they are short somewhere else. The language of the contract was changed to keep from running out of people. He stated there aren't and X amount of employees but they could come up with a number because there are specific positions that have to be filled and manned everyday.

Mr. Toran stated that he thinks that everyone in the room understands what they are saying and the importance of replacing employees once a position is vacated, and he hopes in near future that this position gets filled. He explained that the City Controller has stated that the money is not there and that the department is running in the red and that Article 2 of their contracts recognizes the rights of the City to maintain efficient operation, determine the methods, needs and personnel, by which such operation shall be conducted.

Mr. Thompson said again that this position was drawing a check and even if the department was running in the red you have to have a certain number of people to do the jobs and if you have to cut something then cut from somewhere else. He made reference to the police and fire that come from the general fund and stated that the city needs to step up and get the money from somewhere. He explained that they just got new equipment and they don't have the manpower to use it.

Mr. Denison stated that he agreed, but understood the financial constraints of the City at this time.

Mr. Thompson asked about money that came from the jail and wanted to know if someone was working on that.

Mr. Toran said it hasn't been appropriated as far as he knows

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All meetings are taped and can be reviewed in the City Clerk's Office.

Mr. Thompson stated that they have a contract and the board is agreeing with them but he wants to know if there is anyone working on this to take to the council to ask them to move the money around or are they just being told there is no money.

Mr. Toran said he will have to talk to Mrs. Garry about this.

Mr. Thompson said they went to the council to ask for the money and it probably wasn't their place but they wouldn't be apposed to doing it again, but they feel that someone from the board should be addressing this as well.

Mr. Simons said he agrees with them that they need more people

Mr. Toran asked what the open position was classified as.

Mr. Thomson said now it could be just a laborer position, but it would be better if it were a CDL. He stated that the CDL position would be hired in at more money and the difference in the salary is \$1.23.

Mr. Toran asked if it had to be posted

Mr. Thompson said they agreed to post everything but that it is not really necessary now for just a laborer and they would be willing to forego it if the city was going to say they were hiring someone.

Mr. Denison asked if they have to make a decision now

Mr. Toran said they will have an executive session to discuss this

Mr. Thompson said one of the points they made to the mayor was that the citizens of New Albany are starting to do yard work and that will increase the workload of the Street Department.

Mr. Simons said he has had to pull some specialty crews because they are 4-5 days behind on picking up yard clippings.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Anthony B. Toran, President
Board of Public Works & Safety**

**Mindy Milburn, Deputy City Clerk
Civil City of New Albany, Indiana**